

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-4 and 6-14 that were pending in the application, claims 1-4, 6, and 8-14 were rejected in the Office Action.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 7. In response, independent claims 1 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 2-4 depend), 6 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 8-10 depend), and 11 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 12-14 depend) have been amended to recite the allowable limitations of claim 7. Correspondingly, claim 7 has been canceled. In light of the foregoing, the rejections of claims 1-4, 6, and 8-14 are now moot and, therefore, claims 1-4, 6, and 8-14 should be in condition for allowance.

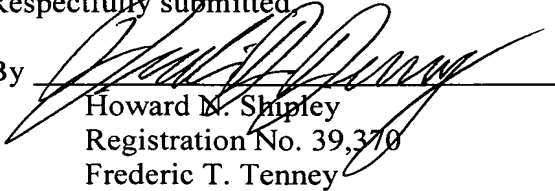
In addition, Applicant has added new: (a) claim 15 that recites a "hooked shaped portion that passes through a first wall section" that extends from a rear surface of the instrument panel; and (b) claim 17 that recites "a hook shaped locking part configured to pass through and connect to a vehicle instrument panel." The Examiner asserted that U.S. Patent No. 6,076,851 ("Davis") taught the hooked shaped locking part claim 3; the Examiner did not make a similar rejection based on U.S. Patent No. 5,941,558 ("Labrie"). With respect to new claims 15 and 17, however, Davis does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the hooked shaped locking part passes through a wall section of an instrument panel. Rather, Davis' hook shaped locking part 62 wraps around an extension that projects from a wall section of an instrument panel. Accordingly, new claims 15-18 are allowable over Davis and Labrie.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-18 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HEREWITH, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HEREWITH, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.